A

B I L L

[AS AMENDED BY STANDING COMMITTEE A]

TO

Confer upon County Councils in Ireland the power to alter the Polling Districts and alter the method of compiling Lists of Voters. A.D. 1908.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Alteration of polling districts.

1. Subject to the provisions of this Act, any county council in Ireland may alter any Parliamentary polling districts wholly included within its administrative county in such manner as to secure that each Parliamentary polling district constituted under this Act shall consist wholly of one or more district electoral divisions, and may appoint new polling places for such districts in addition to or in substitution for existing polling places: Provided that nothing in this Act, nor anything done in pursuance of this Act, shall alter the limits of any Parliamentary borough or Parliamentary county within the meaning of the Redistribution of Seats Act, 1885.

Procedure.

2.—(1) A county council that desires to exercise any of its powers under section one of this Act shall prepare a scheme in the prescribed manner, setting forth the alterations proposed to be made in respect of the existing polling districts or polling places, and after publication of the prescribed notices shall submit the scheme to the Local Government Board.

(2) Any person dissatisfied with the scheme may appeal to the Local Government Board against the scheme within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner.

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A.D. 1908.

(3) The Local Government Board, after consideration of the scheme and any representations made by way of appeal or otherwise, may, if they think fit, make an order confirming the scheme either absolutely or with such variations or modifications as they think expedient, and the scheme shall take effect accordingly as from the date fixed by the Order.

(4) No scheme shall be of any force or validity unless and until it is confirmed by an Order of the Local Government Board under this section.

Rules and inquiries.

3.—(1) The Local Government Board may make general rules for carrying this Act into effect, and in particular for adapting to the provisions of this Act the enactments relating to the registration of Parliamentary voters in Ireland, and the precepts and forms contained in or used under those enactments.

(2) The Local Government Board may, for the purpose of carrying out any of their duties under this Act, cause to be made a local inquiry, and the provisions of article thirty-two of the schedule of the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, shall apply to every such inquiry in like manner as it applies to local inquiries held for the purposes of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.

61 & 62 Vict. c. 37.

(3) All rules under this section shall be published in the Dublin Gazette and laid before Parliament.

Definitions.

4. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:—

The expression "Local Government Board" means the Local Government Board for Ireland;

The expression "prescribed" means prescribed by the Local Government Board;

The expression "county council" shall not include the council of a county borough.

Short title.

5. This Act shall apply to Ireland only and may be cited as the Polling Districts and Registration of Voters (Ireland) Act, 1908.

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Polling Districts and Registration of Voters (Ireland).

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To confer upon County Councils in Ireland the power to alter the Polling Districts and alter the method of compiling Lists of Voters.

Presented by Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh,

supported by

Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Joyce, Lord Arthur Hill, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Captain Craig, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. Devlin, and Mr. Kennedy.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,* 18 *March* 1908.

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